



Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

Hawaii State Senate

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CONTACT: JAYSON WATTS

Phone: (808) 586-7344

TSUTSUI PROPOSAL FOR STATE PURCHASE OF 1.6-ACRE WAIEHU BEACH PARK ADVANCES IN THE SENATE

HONOLULU – The Senate Committee on Business and Economic Development (BED) today expressed its support of Senate Bill 3110, appropriating \$750,000 to the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the purchase of the 1.6-acre Waiehu Beach Park. The measure now goes before the Senate Ways and Means committee.

The committee voted 4 to 1 this afternoon to advance the legislation drafted by Tsutsui and cosponsored by Senators English and Baker despite testimony opposing the land purchase by DLNR Chairman Peter Young. In written comments to the committee, Young said, "The mission of state parks and county parks differ. It appears the Waiehu Beach Park is within the mission of County parks."

Tsutsui disagreed with the land board chairman saying, "This is an open-space issue. If Wailuku Agribusiness is offering the land to the County of Maui and they don't want it, maybe the State should take a look at purchasing the parcel. We want to keep the park and the access it provides in the hands of the public."

Numerous members of the Maui community submitted written testimony in support of Tsutsui's proposal including Maui County Councilman Joseph Pontanilla and Wailuku Agribusiness President, Avery B. Chumbley.

Pontanilla stated in written testimony, "I support Senate Bill 3110 for the following, will insure the perpetuity of park and recreation use of an existing 1.6-acre beachfront property that has served for many years as a favorite ocean recreation setting of residents and visitors in Maui County."

Chumbley, also in written comments, added, "I am pleased to see that Senators Tsutsui, English, and Baker all believe unlike the Mayor of Maui County that this oceanfront beach park is worth preserving as open space for public use for generations to come." With regards to Mayor Arakawa's previous comments in the Maui News on the County's position on purchasing the Waiehu Beach Park, Chumbley stated, "I would suspect that if you were to ask the park users and residents of the Waiehu area, they would strongly disagree with the Mayors comments."

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